

Recognizing that there is strength in numbers, McKinney became a driving force behind the creation of The Military Coalition (TMC) in 1985, and the original 12 co-founding organizations stopped legislation that would have zeroed out retired pay cost-of-living adjustments for a 7 year period. He served as TMC co-chairman, coordinator and administrator—having been reelected as the latter on November 3, 2005. He also mentored numerous TMC organization representatives, imparting them with his vast knowledge of military benefits and the legislative process. Today TMC is comprised of 36 military and veterans' organizations and represents more than 5.5 million active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retirees and veterans of the uniformed services as well as their families and survivors.

In 1987 McKinney was appointed a member of the Veterans Administration Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials, a position he held until 1993.

NCOA recognized his accomplishments by establishing an award in his name—the C.A. "Mack" McKinney Award—presented annually to current or former uniformed service members who exemplify professionalism, dedication, and service to the country.

He was also the first ever recipient of the Marine Corps League's Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone Award for Commitment, and was honored by the U.S. Coast Guard with the Meritorious Public Service Award "for providing consistent and exceptional support to the Coast Guard."

McKinney was a member of numerous professional organizations and held leadership roles in many of them. He was a founding member and President Emeritus of the Exchange Club of Capitol Hill and helped found the Gang of 30 for the purpose of fostering good fellowship and staying abreast of Corps' activities for active duty and retired Marines. He was a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, First and Third, Marine Divisions Associations, Marine Corps Aviation Association, Congressional Marines, Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, the Marine Corps Association and the Fleet Reserve Association. He was also a charter member of and second president elected to head the Combined National Veterans Association as well as a charter member of the Combined National Veterans Associations of America.

In 2004, he was awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the Award citation reads in part:

Mr. McKinney played a decisive role in winning enactment of virtually every significant legislative initiative affecting compensation and benefits for active, Reserve and Guard, and retired service members...

Above and beyond his enviable work ethic, Mr. Speaker, Mack McKinney's most memorable quality was his impressive knowledge of legislative issues affecting the service member. McKinney could speak to the issues passionately and convincingly, whether it was one-on-one, or to an entire room. He had a way of speaking that drew attention to his words, and his presence commanded attention. Well known at military retiree and transition seminars, McKinney constantly implored service members to stay abreast of the issues that affected their quality-of-life, remarking often that "what Congress gives, Congress can take away."

McKinney was also famous for his sense of humor and was quick with a joke. When remarking about his time in the Marine Corps he would say, "I stayed in 29 years and 6 months because I didn't want to make it a career." In an interview with Navy Times reporter Rick Maze in 2000, he remarked on his position with the FRA, one he held for 10 years: "I've been here longer than all but a handful of Senators and Representatives but I'm not ready to retire. In fact, my wife won't let me. She says she married me for better or worse but not for lunch."

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Major Mack McKinney worked until the very end to better the quality-of-life for America's veterans and their families. He held strong to his belief that: "There is a lot more that needs to be done, and I'm going to keep trying to do it. Enlisted people need someone looking out for them." I am proud to have known Mack and honored to call him my friend, I will miss him dearly. Mack McKinney is survived by his beloved wife of 52 years, Rosemarie, three children, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES IN IRAQ BE TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I served in a war during which too many national leaders played too much politics.

Tonight is a disgraceful period in the history of our great country and this House of Representatives.

To wage a political war against one of the greatest military champions Congress has known is no less than unpatriotic.

Representative JOHN MURTHA (D-PA), the leading Democrat in the House on military affairs, has proposed a plan of action for Iraq and I commend my colleague for his courageous leadership. The measure that has been brought to the floor tonight is not Representative MURTHA's plan.

Mr. Speaker, it has been this leadership and honesty with the American people that has been lacking in the Presidents position on the war in Iraq. "Stay the course" is not a strategy for success. It is little more than hollow rhetoric that offers no real vision.

We can and should begin to redeploy our troops as soon as possible after the Iraqi people ratify their Constitution in July 2006. In the months leading up to the Iraqi election in July, we need to make it clear to the Iraqi people that we do not intend to occupy their country or maintain permanent military bases there. And it must be made clear to the world that the United States has no intention of controlling Iraq's oil production and oil wealth.

We must find a rational and reasonable way out of this quagmire. We owe it to the men and women serving us in combat, to their families and to all the American people who are paying both the human and financial costs of this war.

Advocates of the measure we will vote on tonight are cheapening the job our brave men

and women serving in Iraq are doing; the men and women putting their lives on the line to serve our country.

Mr. Speaker, those who dreamed up this strategy are derelict in their duties, absent without leave from their duty station; and people I would not want to share a foxhole with.

A BILL TO NAME THE KAPALAMA POST OFFICE IN HONOLULU, HAWAII AFTER THE LATE U.S. SENATOR HIRAM L. FONG

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. President, I rise today in full support of a bill I have cointroduced to provide a small token of permanent recognition—the naming of the prominent Kapalama post office in Honolulu, Hawaii—of the late, great U.S. Senator Hiram L. Fong of Hawaii, whose long life—he died last August at the age of 97—was dedicated to reshaping, for the betterment of all, the social and political landscape of twentieth-century Hawaii.

Born into poverty in Honolulu on October 1907, Hiram L. Fong was the seventh of 11 children of Chinese-immigrant parents. His father, Fong Sau Howe, originally from China's Kwangtung Province, arrived in Hawaii in 1872, one of 45,000 Chinese immigrants who came to Hawaii to work on the plantations of the islands' once dominant sugar industry. His mother, Fong Lum Shee, arrived in Hawaii when she was 10 years old to work as a maid.

By all accounts, Hiram Fong was enterprising, even as a child. He shined shoes, delivered poi, sold newspapers, led visitors to local tourist spots as well as caddied nine holes of golf for 25 cents.

He attended Hawaii's public schools and was a member of McKinley High School's famous class of 1924, whose 216 members, many of them first-generation immigrants, became some of Hawaii's most distinguished lawyers, business executives, and public servants. Hiram Fong himself became the first resident of Hawaii to receive the Horatio Alger Award for overcoming poverty to achieve great success in law, business, and public service.

As a student at the University of Hawaii, Fong found time to edit the student paper and the yearbook, become a member of the volleyball, rifle and debate teams, and serve as president of the YMCA and Chinese Students Alliance, all the while working at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard as a supply clerk. He somehow managed to graduate from the University of Hawaii with honors in 1930 after just three years.

After working at what was then the Suburban Water System of Oahu from 1930 to 1932, Hiram Fong attended Harvard Law School. Upon graduation in 1935, he returned to Honolulu to work as a deputy city attorney.

In 1938, when he was 31, he founded the law firm of Fong, Miho, Choy and Robinson, and entered and won a race for a seat in the Territorial House of Representatives. A member of the Republican Party, he forged a coalition of independent Republicans and Democrats to win election as speaker of the Territorial House, where he would serve a total of 14 years, including three terms as speaker.